

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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O P 231359Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1252
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY
USDELMC PRIORITY
USCINCEUR PRIORITY
CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY
CINCUSAFE PRIORITY
USDOCOSOUTH PRIORITY
DIRNSA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 5863

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, MASS, GR, US
SUBJECT: U.S.-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS: OPENING
SESSION

REF: A. ATHENS 5686 (DTG 201218Z JUN 77) (NOTAL)
B. STATE 145365 (DTG 222226Z JUN 77) (NOTAL)
C. STATE 144217 (DTG 212202Z JUN 77)

1. DCM MILLS AND AMBASSADOR CHRYSOPATHIS, ACCOMPANIED BY
THEIR RESPECTIVE TEAM MEMBERS, MET ON JUNE 23 TO LAY THE
GROUNDWORK FOR THIS PHASE OF DEFENSE COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS.
BOTH EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF THE AGREED SCENARIO (REF A
PARA 2) AND REITERATED THE MUTUAL DESIRE TO CONCLUDE THE
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NEGOTIATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. CHRYSOPATHIS EXPRESSED
APPRECIATION THAT THE U.S. HAD AGAIN LIMITED ITS
DELEGATION TO A SIZE WHICH WOULD HELP PRESERVE FOR THE
TIME BEING THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE DISCUSSIONS.
HE SAID THAT THE GREEK PARTICIPATION IN THE WORKING GROUP
WOULD ALSO BE LIMITED TO THREE PERSONS, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING
THAT EITHER SIDE COULD ADD ONE OR TWO SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL

REPRESENTATIVES IF AND WHEN THIS IS CONSIDERED NECESSARY.

2. WE AGREED TO HANDLE POSSIBLE PRESS QUERIES IN THE SAME MANNER AS DURING THE APRIL-MAY SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS, I.E., WE WOULD REFER ALL INITIAL QUERIES TO THE APPROPRIATE GREEK AUTHORITIES BUT, IF SPECIFICALLY ASKED, WE WOULD NOT DENY THE PRESENCE OF TWO WASHINGTON EXPERTS TO ADVISE THE EMBASSY ON TECHNICAL MATTERS. PRESS GUIDANCE IN REF B, RECEIVED AFTER THE JUNE 23 MEETING, IS ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING WITH THE GREEKS.

ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT RETRANSMITTAL OF THAT GUIDANCE TO ALL INFO ADDRESSEES OF THIS MESSAGE.

3. FOLLOWING THE MILLS-CHRYSOSEPATHIS MEETING, THE WORKING GROUP CONVENED TO OUTLINE A WORK PROGRAM FOR ADDRESSING THE REMAINING ISSUES. PREDICTABLY, THE GREEKS PREFERRED THAT WE INITIALLY PRESENT OUR POSITIONS ON ALL THREE ISSUES AND THEN PROCEED TO SPECIFICS. AFTER WE DEFLECTED THIS APPROACH, AGREEMENT WAS REACHED TO TREAT EACH ISSUE ONE AT A TIME IN THE SEQUENCE IN REF C. DISCUSSION ON AIRBORNE RECONNAISSANCE ASSISTANCE WILL BEGIN TOMORROW, JUNE 24.

4. AS WAS THE CASE DURING THE PREVIOUS SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS, WE INTEND TO OBSERVE STRICT COMMUNICATIONS DISCIPLINE IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS ON UNSECURE LINES
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BETWEEN GREECE AND OUTSIDE POINTS IN REGARD TO DISCUSSIONS ON NEGOTIATION POSITIONS AND TACTICS. TO AVOID POSSIBLE COMPROMISE WE ASK THAT ADDRESSEES DO THE SAME.
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